Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01276 221722Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------221741Z 041625 /50
O 221712Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3419
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1276

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, LE, US
SUBJECT: LEBANESE ARMY: PLANS FOR RECONSTITUTION

1. DURING CONVERSATION MARCH 22 FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS TOLD ME MOST VITAL QUESTION FOR LEBANON TODAY WAS RECONSTITUTION OF ARMY AND FIRST, AND MOST IMPORTANT, STEP WAS TO REPLACE PRESENT COMMANDER, GENERAL HANNA SAID. HE AND PRESIDENT HAD HAD LONG AND UNSATISFACTORY CONVERSATION OF THE SUBJECT WITH CAMILLE CHAMOUN AND HIS SON DANY ON WEEKEND. HE AND PRESIDENT HAD DECIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY MUST TAKE BULL BY THE HORNS AND APPOINT NEW ARMY COMMANDER WHATEVER THE CONSEQUENCES. THEY PROCEEDING IN THAT DIRECTION AND WOULD ANNOUNCE IT "SOON." I SAID THIS WAS GOING TO BE TOUGH DECISION AND WISHED HIM LUCK.

2. COMMENT: IF SARKIS DOES MOVE AGAINST HANNA SAID NOW IT IS LIKELY TO MEAN CONFRONTATION WITH CHAMOUNISTS. SHOWDOWN WILL HAVE IMPORTANT CONSEQUENCES FOR LEBANON, HOWEVER IT GOES.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Litigation Codes:
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Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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